



SELBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

(INTERIM)

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

In the Year 1939.

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TO The Chairman and Members of the
SELBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The Ministry of Health has issued a Circular Letter to all Local Authorities in which it states:

"In view of the increasing pressure of work in the Public Health Departments of Local Authorities and the need for strict economy in the use of paper, the Minister considers that interim reports only should be made for the year 1939; and the subject matter should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year - especially any matters arising from or connected with the war, outbreaks of infectious disease, etc."

The Sanitary Inspector was appointed Billeting Officer early in the year, and almost the whole of his time is absorbed by that work - being able only to attend to urgent sanitary matters.

A great deal of the time of the Medical Officer of Health is also taken up with the casualty services of A.R.P.

(Signed) W. BERTRAM HILL,
Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The usual Table (ii) is appended showing the number of notifications of acute infectious disease, and the number of cases of tuberculosis.

The only increase over the previous year was in the number of cases of diphtheria (26 as against 14 in 1938), and, of the 26 cases, three only had been immunised.

A Table is also added giving the number of patients admitted into the Selby Joint Isolation Hospital

Minor Infectious Diseases

Whooping Cough and measles were made notifiable from the 23rd October, 1939.

Whooping Cough made its appearance in December and continued to late April, 1940. 8 cases only were notified in December. The disease was epidemic in character, and there is no doubt that large numbers of cases were never notified. The disease was almost exclusively confined to the permanent inhabitants of the Town.

EVACUATION

739 children came from the City of Kingston-upon-Hull, but by the end of December there remained only 226.

Considerable anxiety was experienced owing to the most unsatisfactory condition of a considerable proportion of the children: verminous heads, scabies, septic skin conditions and cases of enuresis were found in a large proportion of the evacuated children, and it was some time before the Health Visitor resident in the Town, augmented by help from the Evacuating Authority, could cope with the work. Large numbers were also poorly clad - and mention must be made of the self-sacrificing assistance rendered by many of the foster-parents in providing the children with adequate clothing.

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There was no increase in the incidence of zymotic disease as a result of the incursion of this child population - in fact three of the evacuees only were reported as suffering from infectious disease.

WATER SUPPLY

The additional bore-hole sunk in the vicinity of the existing Works will shortly be in commission, thus greatly increasing the water supply of the Town and surrounding Rural Districts.

Bacteriological examinations have been made during the year, the results being satisfactory.

Some degree of apprehension was caused by the fact that a military camp was erected directly on the sandstone, only a comparatively short distance from the bore-holes. A conference was at once convened with the higher Military Command; and ultimately agreement was reached as to the method of sewage disposal to be adopted.

HOUSING

Routine work under the Housing Acts has, of necessity, been in abeyance.

A building scheme, begun early in the year, was completed, providing accommodation as follows: -

<u>Slum Clearance:</u>	88	3	Bedroomed Hs.
<u>Overcrowding:</u>	20	4	Bedroomed Hs.
	10	5	Do.
	10	1	Do.

The number of houses now owned by the Council is 602.

The number of houses in the Urban District: -

2562 - £26 rental and under;
410 - Above £26 rental.

The Surveyor reports that 40 houses were erected during the year by private enterprise.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

Though the County Council is the responsible Authority for the administration of the Air Raid Precautions Act the Medical Officer of Health was appointed by the District Council as the responsible Officer for the co-ordination of the casualty services, and a large proportion of his time has been taken up with the organisation in connection with the training of the personnel of the First Aid Parties, Aid Post personnel, and Ambulance Services

TABLE II

Notifiable Disease	At all Ages	Number of Cases notified.							Total Cases re- moved to Hos- pital.
		At all Ages - Years.							
		Un- der 1	1 & under 5	5- 15	15- 25	25- 45	45- 65	65 Upwards	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	26		3	20	2		1		26
Erysipelas	3				2		1		
Scarlet Fever	8			5	2	1			8
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4			1	2	1			
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3		1	1		1			
Whooping Cough	8	1	1	6					
Primary Pneu- monia	12	2	1	4		3	2		2
	<u>64</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>36</u>

Patients admitted to SELBY JOINT ISOLATION
HOSPITAL.

	From S.U.D.C.	From S.R.D.C.	Deaths
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Scarlet Fever	8	13	
Diphtheria	26	5	1
Carriers	3	-	
Pneumonia	1	3	
Varicella	-	1	
Tonsillitis	-	3	
T.B. Meningitis	-	1	1
Dentition	-	1	
Observation	1	-	
	<u>39</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>2</u>

Three of the above Patients were evacuees from the City of Hull.

Two of the above Patients were admitted to the Garforth Isolation
Hospital.

